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drink with him, and settle the controversy in ten minutes. As things stand, however, I advise you to sue him, by all means. Don't let an insolent pirate like Brown trample on your sacred rights. Assert your manhood and courage. Never mind the costs. I need the money!"

SAM BERNARD acknowledges that he is a past master at "gagging" on the stage; but he confesses that a sister artist entirely upset him one night, when she came out with a carefully prepared interpolation without telling him what to expect.

"Will you, please," said the actress, "pass me my diminutive argenteous truncated cone, convex on its summit, and semi-perforated with symmetrical indentations?" She was asking for her thimble.

OF all the nuisances an actor has to put up with," says Mr. Mantell, "the worst by far is the request for one's autograph. The young lady's album is another; though not quite so bad.

"I remember once on a time being asked to write some 'light' poetry (I suppose, being a Shakespearean actor, I was considered 'heavy') in a lady's album. I did it; but it was my first and last attempt. Here it is:

"You ask me to write you light poetry—well, For once I am willing to spare it, And hope my verse will not so heavy be found But you will be able to bear it."

**BIRD LANGUAGE**

A GOVERNMENT naturalist who has made an informal report on the subject declares that researches are in progress that in the near future will greatly aid our knowledge of the language of birds, and will present proof of the remarkable detail of some of these methods of communication.

These, it is added, are not "languages" in the ordinary human sense that they are developed into words more or less monotonously spoken, and depending on the alternation of consonants and vowels for their definition; but by a great many and various sounds the birds are said to express a considerable number of different feelings, their calls and cries being always understood and, should there be occasion, heeded by other birds. These feelings include alarm, love, jealousy, contentment, pain, and pleasure.

The common crow is said to have a vocabulary more expressive and of wider range than that of many of the finest songbirds, and the American wild turkey is instanced as one of the best illustrations of the versatility of bird language. The turkey is alleged to have a perfectly distinguishable vocabulary of at least a dozen "words." Its constant peril from half a dozen sources, overhead and underfoot, has rendered it necessary that it shall possess a special call or alarm for each of those perils.

For danger from overhead, as from a hawk or an eagle, the turkey has a low note, well drawn out, which cautions every member of a flock. For immediate danger, it gives an entirely different note, quick, sharp, tremulous, which is taken by other turkeys to mean that they shall instantly hide themselves, for the enemy is approaching.

When danger threatens from a fox or a dog, a distinctly different signal is used. This signifies "Take wing!" and turkeys who hear it are instantly in the air.

The same note is employed when there is other danger on the ground, only the note is prolonged instead of being quickly uttered. In this case the turkeys do not at once take to flight; but the feeding ceases, and, with necks stretched to their longest to enable the eye to see as far as possible, the flock circles about until it has covered an area great enough to show that the alarm was groundless.

When feeding in a field where food is plentiful and good, the turkey makes a sign expressive of contentment, varying at different stages; but the final "word" from the patriarch of the flock checks the meal, and away the birds go.

It is claimed that the common hen is not far behind the turkey in her vocabulary. Furthermore, she is said to be a much more fluent "talker" than the rooster. Her cackle is used for three different purposes, and each cackle is different from the other cackles. One she uses when seeking a nest, or when calling for her mate; one when she is frightened; and another, of a triumphant sort, as she flies from or to the nest.

The hen has songs of three distinct types,—the lovesong, a happy response to her mate; the song of indifference, when idly hunting for food, indicating no certain purpose in her movements; and the lullaby song, a low, crooning, soothing note, hushing the young chickens to sleep.

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